



PROCLAMATION NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS,** every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year and Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries.
- WHEREAS,** Virginia has 992 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 11.4 deaths per 100,000 people and has the 34th highest rate of gun deaths in the US and communities across the nation, including Albemarle County, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and
- WHEREAS,** protecting public safety in the communities they serve is local government's highest responsibility and support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories. Local officials and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and
- WHEREAS,** the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place which may result in situations where access to firearms results in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings; and
- WHEREAS,** anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence. By wearing orange Americans will raise awareness about gun violence, honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, renew our commitment to reduce gun violence, pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors declare Friday, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Signed this 2nd day of June 2021

Ned Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors